

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 OES-06 IO-13 DHA-02
AID-05 NEA-10 AGRE-00 COME-00 /118 W
-----071548Z 056371 /42

R 071206Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9787

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 1361

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET YO

SUBJ: ATNAFU ABATE VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: (A) BELGRADE 1101, (B) ADDIS ABABA 1090 (NOTAL,
(C) BELGRADE 838

1. SUMMARY: INFORMATION HEREIN ON ATNAFU ABATE'S
FEB 24-28 VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA DERIVED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY
FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS AND REPORTED IN RESPONSE ADDIS'
REQUEST PARA 2, REF B. EMBOFF HAS APPOINTMENT WITH FSFA
OFFICIAL NEXT FEW DAYS; ALSO WE CONTINUE EFFORTS OBTAIN
READOUT FROM ETHIOPIANS HERE, WHOSE EMBASSY APPEARS TO BE
IN STATE OF TURMOIL (BELGRADE 1312, EXDIS). OF PARTICULAR
INTEREST DURING VISIT WAS UNUSUAL PUBLICITY YUGOSLAVS GAVE
TO ETHIOPIANS' VISIT TO ARMS "SUPER-MARKET". END
SUMMARY.

2. COMPOSITION OF ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION. IN ADDITION TO
PMAC VICE PRES LT. COL. ATNAFU ABATE, ETHIOPIAN DEL
INCLUDED "PMAC DEFENSE SECTION LEADER" LT COL TESFAYE
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KIDANE, "PMAC SECTION LEADER" LT. NEGUSE NEGASA,
DEF MIN AYALEV MANDEFRO, INTERNAL AFFS MIN COL. LEGESE
MIRIAM, MINES, ENGERGY AND WATER RESOURCES MIN HAILU
YEMENU, "ACTING SECTION CHIEF FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS" IN
MIN FOR FONAFFS EJOB TADESE, "FIRST SEC" IN MIN FOR
FONAFFS BELAJNE MENGESHA, AS WELL AS GIRMA ADMASU (NO
TITLE GIVEN) AND "OTHERS".

3. ATNAFU ABATE HELD PRIVATE TALKS WITH:

(A) TITO -- "TANJUG" REPORTED THE TWO HELD A "LENGTHY, FRIENDLY CONVERSATION ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, CERTAIN CURRENT INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AND ESPECIALLY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA AND IN THE REGION IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED";

(B) LCY EXEC SECRETARY DOLANC -- "POLITIKA" EMPHASIZED TWO SIDES "SATISFACTION" WITH STATE OF THEIR BILATERAL TIES AND "FRIENDLY COOPERATION IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FIELDS MUTUAL READINESS WAS EXPRESSED FOR THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING AND BROADENING OF COOPERATION IN ALL AREAS";

(C) DEFMIN LJUBICIC -- NOTED ONLY BRIEFLY IN TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE;

(D) DEL'S HOST, VICE PRES ZARKOVIC -- TO WHOM, ACCORDING TO "TANJUG", ATNAFU ABATE EMPHASIZED "INTERNAL REACTIONARY FORCES IN ETHIOPIA ARE LINKED WITH FOREIGN ENEMIES AND TOGETHER WISH TO THWART ETHIOPIA'S REVOLUTION....(ATNAFU ABATE) DISCUSSED INTERFERENCE IN ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH WISH TO USE ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR OWN AIMS. IN THAT CONTEXT ATNAFU ABATE MENTIONED THE ERITREAN PROBLEM. HE NOTED THAT THE PMAC DESIRES TO RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN A PEACEFUL MANNER, INCLUDING THE PROBLEM OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DJIBOUTI, WHOSE INDEPENDENCE ETHIOPIA FAVORS." ATNAFU ABATE EXTENDED INVITATION TO ZARKOVIC TO VISIT ETHIOPIA AT UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE AND LATTER ACCEPTED.

(E) FONMIN MINIC -- NO SEPARATE PRESS REPORT OR MENTION IN COMMUNIQUE BUT ACCORDING TO REUTER CORRESPONDENT HERE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

4. ONLY MEETINGS NOT INCLUDING ATNAFU ABATE WHICH DREW ANY PRESS COVERAGE WERE BETWEEN

(A) COL. MARIAM AND YUGOSLAV DEPMIN FOR INTERNAL AFFS DRASKO JURISIC - ON WHICH "TANJUG" REPORTED ONLY THAT MARIAM AND JURISIC "EXCHANGED VIEWS ON QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO THE TWO COUNTRIES" AND THAT THEIR DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE IN A "WORKING AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE". (YUGOSLAV INTERNAL AFFS MIN HERLJEVIC WAS IN SOVIET UNION FOR DURATION OF ETHIOPIANS' VISIT.)

(B) HAILU YEMENU AND YUGOSLAV FEC MEMBER AND
CO-CHAIRMAN OF MIXED YUGOSLAV-ETHIOPIAN COMM FOR ECON
COOP VAJO SKENDZIC HELD TALKS ON WHAT "TANJUG" DESCRIBED
MERELY AS "PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION".

5. TEXTS OF TOASTS AT ONLY FIRST OF TWO DINNERS HOSTED
BY YUGOSLAVS WERE PUBLISHED HERE, WHEREIN APPEARED
FOLLOWING POINTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST:

(A) ZARKOVIC -- EXPRESSED YUGOSLAVS' EMPHATHY WITH
ETHIOPIANS IN "STRUGGLE TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS OF REVO-
LUTION, OVERCOME OPPOSITION OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY
FORCES AND PRESERVE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF
THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS ETHIOPIA'S NONALIGNED ORIENTATION"
-- AFFIRMED GOY'S FAITH IN ETHIOPIANS' ABILITY TO "DEFEND
TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR COUNTRY IN DIRECTION OF SOCIALIST
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DEVELOPMENT, WHICH THEY CHOSE IN ACCORD WITH THEIR
SPECIFIC CONDITIONS;"--

(B) ATNAFU ABATE -- NOTED GOY'S "VALUABLE ASSISTANCE
TO ETHIOPIA DURING ITS VERY DIFFICULT TRANSITIONAL
PERIOD" -- HAILED ETHIOPIA'S "ANTI-FEUDAL, ANTI-
BUREAUCRATIC, ANTI-CAPITALIST AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST FORCES"
FOR EFFORTS "IN CONSTRUCTING A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT"--
FOCUSSING POINTEDLY ON ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL TROUBLES,
SAID "OUR PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF ALL NATIONALITIES

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SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 OES-06 IO-13 DHA-02
AID-05 NEA-10 AGRE-00 COME-00 /118 W
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R 071206Z MAR 77

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 1361

AND PEOPLES IN ETHIOPIA TO EQUALITY, TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND TO FULL AUTONOMOUS RIGHTS. THE HISTORY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION OF ALL NATIONALITIES IN OUR COUNTRY WILL BE TREATED EQUALLY AND IN THE SPIRIT OF SOCIALISM" -- CASTIGATED "THE ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIA'S REVOLUTION, OLD AS WELL AS NEW, (WHO) IN COOPERATION WITH IMPERIALISM ARE TRYING TO THWART US"--COMMENTING ON BROADENING OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION, SAID "THE AGREEMENT WHICH WE HAVE CONCLUDED WILL SOON BEAR FRUITFUL RESULTS". (SPECIFIC AGREEMENT REFERRED TO IDENTIFIED NEITHER HERE NOR ELSEWHERE IN PRESS).

6. JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOTED--YUGOSLAVIA PROCEEDS FROM THE VIEW (THAT) ASSISTANCE TO AND SUPPORT FOR (ETHIOPIA) IS NECESSARY...FOR THE PRESERVATION OF (ITS) TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFICULT INTERNAL PROBLEMS..." -- THE TWO COUNTRIES "CONDEMN PRESSURES AND ATTEMPTS OF IMPERIALIST FORCES TO TRANSFORM OPEN, UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS IN THE MUTUAL RELATIONS OF SOME COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND BEYOND INTO AN AREA OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFLICT WHOSE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES WOULD HAVE BROAD DIMENSIONS. STIMULATING THESE DISPUTES OPENS THE DOOR TO INTERFERENCE FROM ABROAD AND ENABLES IMPERIALIST AND OTHER REACTIONARY FORCES OF FOREIGN DOMINATION TO PRESERVE THEIR PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE"--"BOTH SIDES REAFFIRMED THEIR POSITION THAT THE QUESTION OF DJIBOUTI MUST BE RESOLVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF DECOLONIZATION AFFIRMED IN THE DECISIONS OF THE UN, THE RESOLUTIONS OF ASSEMBLIES OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES AND THE DECLARATIONS OF THE OAU".

7. ECONOMIC/AGRICULTURAL TIES. DEL'S VISIT TO AGRICULTURE COMBINE BELGRADE (PKB) AND BELGRADE'S INDUSTRY OF MACHINES AND TRACTORS (IMT) FOLLOWED BY A DAY "TANJUG" REPORT FROM ADDIS ON FEB 24 SIGNING OF \$1 MILLION CONTRACT BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AGRIC MIN AND IMT FOR SALE AND DELIVERY BY LATTER OF ONE HUNDRED 75HP TRACTORS WITH SPARE PARTS. "TANJUG" ADDED "TALKS CONTINUE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF LONG TERM COOPERATION BETWEEN IMT AND ETHIOPIAN AGRIC MIN WITH VIEW TO SIGNING A NEW CONTRACT

FOR NEW (SIC) DELIVERIES".

8. ETHIOPIANS TOUR YUGOSLAV ARMS "SUPERMARKET". IN EXCEPTIONAL DEPARTURE FROM USUAL RESTRICTIONS ON PRESS COVERAGE (OR EVEN NOTATION) OF SUCH EVENTS, FEB 27 "POLITIKA" CARRIED TWO-COLUMN PICTURE AND HEADLINE ON PAGE TWO OF ATNAFU ABATE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN DEL TOURING YUGOSLAVIA'S "PERMANENT EXHIBIT OF ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT" AT NIKINCI (APPROXIMATELY 40 MILES FROM BELGRADE). ACCORDING TO "TANJUG" TEXT ACCOMPANYING PICTURE, DELEGATION ESCORTED BY SKENDZC (PARA 4-B ABOVE) AND ASST DEFMIN COL GEN. PETAR MATIC. "TANJUG" REPORTS ONLY THAT ATNAFU ABATE "LOOKED OVER THE EXHIBIT WITH INTEREST AND LATER SPENT A SHORT TIME IN CONVERSATION WITH HIS HOSTS". ALSO OF NOTE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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CLAIM BY REUTER CORRESPONDENT HERE TO EMBOFF) IN ADVANCE OF DEL'S ARRIVAL THAT GOY HAD CONFIRMED TO FOREIGN PRESS THAT ATNAFU ABATE'S ITINERARY WOULD INCLUDE A VISIT TO NIKINCI. IF GOY IN FACT DID SO, IT STRIKING DEPARTURE FROM YUGOSLAV'S NORMAL POSTURE OF SILENCE ON SUCH MATTERS. IT GENERALLY BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT MANY NONALIGNED COUNTRY DELS AND "LIBERATION MOVEMENT" LEADERS VISITING YUGOSLAVIA GO "SHOPPING" AT NIKINCI.

9. COMMENT: WHILE WE PREFER RESERVE MORE EXTENDED COMMENT UNTIL AFTER HAVING RECEIVED GOY (AND HOPEFULLY ETHIOPIAN) READ-OUT, FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ARE OFFERED AT THIS TIME. WE INCLINED TO CAUTION AGAINST OVER-EMPHASIZING RUMORED IMPORTANCE OF "ARMS SHOPPING" ASPECT OF THE VISIT, BUT YUGOSLAV MOTIVES IN AFFORDING FAIRLY BLATANT PUBLICITY TO NIKINCI VISIT ARE PUZZLING. WE WONDER WHETHER SUCH PUBLICITY AIMED AT BECLOUDING ETHIOPIA'S ALLEGEDLY MORE FORMIDABLE (IF STILL FORMATIVE) MILITARY LINKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, I.E., BY PUBLICLY EMPHASIZING NONALIGNED ETHIOPIA'S TIES TO A NONALIGNED ARMS SUPPLIER. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE AND CONTINUE TO SUPPLY ETHIOPIANS WITH AT LEAST SOME SMALL ARMS. ALONG WITH PROVISION OF MILITARY MATERIAL, YUGOSLAVS PROBABLY OFFER FIRM GUIDANCE TO ETHIOPIANS ON RESOLVING THEIR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PROBLEMS IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE YUGOSLAV CAUSE OF FURTHERING "NONALIGNED SOCIALISM" AND PRESERVING NONALIGNED "UNITY".
YORK

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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